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# Paul's Practical Plant Points





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VAN LINDLEY COMPANY

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J. VAN. LINDLEY NURSERY COMPANY

*Nurserymen*

Pomona, North Carolina

CUT FLOWER STORES

Greensboro

High Point

BRANCH NURSERIES

Overhills

Friendship

# Paul's Practical Plant Points

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EVERYBODY knows that when a "Flivver" "knocks," it has to be taken care of; and yet a lot of folks seem to expect a Tree or a Plant to take care of itself even though its "machinery" is delicate and complicated.

More facts about trees, more care and attention and doing the right thing at the right time will pay mighty good dividends in the garden and in the orchard.

That is why this little book is printed. It is just a lot of plain, pithy paragraphs plentifully punctured with points pertaining to plants.

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Poinsettias: Either burn or wax the ends of the flower-stems that "bleed" after cutting, put in water overnight and they will ship long distances in perfect condition.

Don't let cut flowers stand in a draught of air.

Flowers ought to stand in water at least 12 hours before shipping.

Plants like Cyclamen should be watered underneath the foliage; a hand syringe is the thing to use.

Plant bulbs and seeds  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  times as deep as they are through.

It pays to plant fresh Hyacinth bulbs every year in the South.

Split the stems of Chrysanthemums and other woody plants before putting

in water after cutting; the flowers will last twice as long.

Why some fruit-trees don't bear:  
Lack of pollen. Plant assorted varieties.

Roll a new lawn before first mowing to press the young roots into the soil.

Willow and Poplar roots clog drain pipes and sewers.

"Prune when your knife is sharp"—  
Dr. Liberty H. Bailey.

Bag your grapes. Foil the birds and bugs and eat grapes yourself.

Call it the "Blackberry Patch". And prune the bushes every year. Ask us to tell you how to grow bush fruits.

Don't use lime around Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

Always plant Aucubas in shady places.

In trimming, cut just above a bud. You can shape the plant by picking out an inside or an outside bud.

Use the "hoes" instead of the "hose".

Your lawn needs lime.

Plant crooked and many-branched trees in your children's play-ground.

When you see "B&B" in a nurseryman's list it means that the Evergreens are taken up with a ball of earth on the roots and wrapped in burlap. They grow then.

Put the fertilizer where the roots can get it: at the ends of the limbs where the rain and sunshine reach the ground.

Fertilizer around the tree trunk is lost.  
Try "Stimuplant".

Newly planted trees and shrubs should be mulched with manure. Don't put manure in the holes. Mulching conserves moisture.

Prune to thin out the plants and improve the blooms. Spring-flowering plants should be pruned immediately after blooming; fall-flowering plants, in the winter. Don't "bob" off the tops nor give the usual "hair-cut" in winter. Most shrubs bloom on new growth made the previous season and when that growth is cut off, the flowers are destroyed.

Take the labels off your trees when you plant them; the wire will cut through the limbs.

Always plant Pin Oaks, Tulip Poplars and Magnolias either in the early fall or late spring.

Gum at the base of peach trees is a sign of borers.

Make your Asparagus bed six inches higher than the level of the ground; it will settle down to the right level.

Pinch back some of the plants in the Phlox bed; it will make them branch and bloom later.

Disinfect your knife between cuts when you are removing limbs with blight. Ask us about the disinfectant.

Large trees, newly transplanted, must be protected from sun-scald, especially

on the west side. Use a V-shaped board or wrap the trunks in burlap.

If you want to move a Holly from the woods, remove the leaves before digging if you want it to grow.

A good strong tea made from plug-tobacco is a country remedy for garden pests.

A good wash to keep rabbits from gnawing fruit-trees is a mixture of lime, carbolic-acid and copperas. You can get the makings at the drugstore and we will tell you how to mix it.

If your roses have mildew, dust with sulphur when the dew is on. To prevent mildew, spray early with Bordeaux mixture. All drugstores sell it.

Arsenate of lead or Paris green will kill leaf-eating insects.

Cut roses back to from 4 to 6 inches from the ground when you plant them.

“Knee-high” is a good measuring-stick for heading 1 year fruit trees.

When transplanting evergreen shrubs, take all the leaves off. When you order from a nurseryman, insist in getting evergreens “B&B”.

It is mighty hard to make transplanted Crepe Myrtles and Cherry Laurel live unless cut back *hard*.

Watch out for bag-worms on evergreens.

If the roots of Pecans and other nut trees get dry, they will die.

Protect the wild flowers; they belong to all of us. Admire them but don't let the children or tourists break them wholesale only to throw them away shortly, wilted. Sometimes they are torn up by the roots. Many varieties are disappearing.

"Canines and Conifers"—a bad combination. Screen the Arborvitae with low-growing shrubs or tie up the Pup for results.

Avoid "Y" crotches in pruning fruit trees. Limbs at irregular intervals won't split in storms or when loaded with fruit.

Add iron-filings or alum-water to the soil to give the blue color to the soft-wooded varieties of Hydrangeas.

"Let us spray"; grow fruit, not worms.

Keep the runners pinched off your strawberry plants and the bed free of weeds.

Nurserymen grow stone fruits like Peaches and Plums by budding. Pears and Apples are usually grafted. To get dwarf trees, Apples must have paradise roots and Pears, Quince roots.

Set plants a little deeper than they stood in the nursery; the dirt mark will show you.

Lest you forget: Don't put manure in the hole; put it on top of the ground as a mulch.

Shade trees on your lawn can be fertilized without injury to the grass by

driving holes with a crowbar or iron pipe at the spread or reach of the limbs and filling the holes with bone meal in the fall.

Window boxes ought to be filled with rich soil; mix well-rotted stable manure and plenty of bonemeal with good soil. A lot of plants in crowded space need plenty of food for results. And provide drainage.

Three principles of correct planting:  
(1) Plant in masses; (2) Avoid straight lines; (3) Leave centers open.

Plant something. Folks judge of your pride in your community and your home by the way your place looks. Make it attractive.

Plan before you plant. To find the number of plants needed around your foundation, walk around the house taking ordinary steps, count your heel tracks and you will have the number of plants needed. Build out the corners bay-window fashion; mulch the plants when set; use stable manure.

Look out of the dining-room window, out of the living-room door and from where Mother sits when she sews: consider the view Mother gets. You see, from the inside of the home is the place to locate the shade trees and specimen plants.

Don't buy a dozen Maples and play checkers with your lawn.

If your home faces South or West,

don't use evergreens for foundation planting if you want the best results. This applies especially to the South. Use broad-leaved evergreens—evergreen shrubs—native in your section.

Make flowers a part of the landscape, but for goodness sake, don't put plants in pails or pans, tomato cans or kettles perched on posts or sewer-pipes stood on end. Be a good house-keeper in your outdoor living-room.

Cut-flowers of Peonies, Gladioli, Dahlias and similar plants are heavy drinkers. Arrange in deep vases with plenty of water.

Use Whale Oil Soap for scale on Euonymus, Maples, etc. If you can't get it at your drugstore, write us.

Prune Grape Vines to 2 or 3 buds every January.

Plant Figs in sheltered positions and in heavy clay soil. They are not successful in light soils in the lower South because of nematodes.

Blood and tankage give best results in orchards and don't leach out of the soil as quickly as nitrate of soda which should not be used on light sandy soils for fruiting orchards.

Plant both Pistilate and Staminate varieties of Strawberries. If you don't know about them, write us.

Mulberries furnish both shade and food for your hog and hen lot.

The first nursery in the South was started before the Revolutionary War by

John Watson, formerly gardener for Henry Laurens in South Carolina.

To have a green lawn during mid-summer, don't cut the grass too short in the early spring.

Stake the shade trees the first season after planting; press the soil down firmly. Wind storms will loosen the trees without these precautions. Lean the trees slightly towards the direction of prevailing winds.

Herbaceous Perennial Plants die down in the winter and come up again in the spring. But cover them with a mulch of hay or straw as a protection against sudden changes in temperature. It is good insurance.

If your trees arrive frozen, don't get excited; they are all right. Just put the box or bale away in a cool place, cover with hay, straw or blankets to insure slow and gradual thawing and don't unpack till the frost is all out.

Fill the holes with sand when planting Scuppernong Grapes in clay soil.

Curculio thrives in brush piles: clean up the outer edges of the orchard—and the orchard.

Puddling the roots of plants before setting prevents drying out.

Rake in a few grass seed on your old lawn each September.

Abelia; please pinch off the long new shoots each week during the summer for best results.

Huckleberries thrive only in acid soil.

Birds eat bugs; protect the birds.

The Japanese Iris likes "wet feet"; the German Iris prefers a dry, sunny location.

If you plan to move a tree from the woods, "root-prune" it the winter before: run your spade deep around it, cutting back the roots. During the summer following hundreds of small feeders will be thrown off by the pruned roots and the tree will be in nearly the same condition as a nursery-grown tree.

When you plant your hedge, keep your ditch straight on one side and plant against the straight side. You can do the work in half the time and without a line. For a very thick hedge, cut back severely after planting.

Cover over wounds or cuts on trees with a mixture of lampblack, white-lead and linseed oil.

Are your Ferns and Palms yellow? It's "wet feet". Half a brick in the bottom of the jardiniere is "safety first". If your outdoor plants turn yellow, it is due to too much watering or too little fertilizing.

Boxwood bushes ought to be covered with a shade of canvas the first summer.

Dynamite the ground for tree planting only when it is dry.

Wall a "well" around all your trees when filling in your yard.

"Everbloom" is correct—if all old flowers are kept picked off.

Hybrid budded Roses should be planted

so the "bud" will be two inches below the ground.

Trees "eat"; trees "drink". Feed and water them. "Stimuplant" is a clean, prepared fertilizer in tablet-form; good for either house or garden plants.

Don't forget to water thoroughly all trees and plants during the first summer after planting.

Pinch the outside shoots of Evergreens: it scatters the growth and makes them bushy.

A sure way to get quick, big results is to feed with liquid manure. Most florists sell it.

Thin the "set" of Apples, Pears, Peaches. You'll get finer fruit.

Summer pruning (pinching out the tip of the new growth) keeps the young fruit-trees in better shape and insures fruitfulness.

Never leave stubs when cutting off limbs. Cut close to the shoulder.

An axe or a hatchet is not a pruning tool.

Don't let the stock do the pruning.

Ramblers and strong growing Roses need little or no pruning; weak-growing varieties require severe pruning to produce good blooms.

When you buy trees, ask your banker to tell you about the firm you don't know. He has a directory of business houses everywhere.



